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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Roman History and Mythology. Edited by HENRY A. SANDERS.
(New York: The Macmillan Company. 1910. Pp. iii, 427.)

THIS collection of scientific papers by former pupils of Professor Sanders, and presumably written at his suggestion and under his supervision, makes contributions of value in the solution of several important and perplexing historical problems.

The first article in it (pp. 1-159), by Orma Fitch Butler, which bears the title *Studies in the Life of Heliogabalus*, contains in its three main chapters an analysis of the critical literature bearing on the "*Scriptores Historiae Augustae*", a history of the years 218-222 A. D., and a critical examination of the *Vita Heliogabali*. Perhaps there is no more complex series of questions in higher criticism than is presented by the *Historia Augusta*, and it would be hard to find a more interesting episode in historical study than is furnished by the attempts which scholars have made to solve the problems involved. The questions which this piece of literature raises concern the date of composition of the several Lives, their sources, authenticity, and historical value. The way in which each of these has in turn been made the central point of attack since 1838, and the methods which have been used in investigating them, by studying the historical references, the dedications in the manuscripts, the language, and even the rhythmical structure, have been analyzed and set forth with admirable skill in the preliminary chapter. The most important original contribution which the paper makes consists in a critical examination (pp. 109-157) of that portion of the *Vita* (chs. 1, 4-2, 3; 3, 1-18, 3) which deals with the history of the reign of Heliogabalus. The historical accuracy of these chapters is tested by comparing them with a history of the period which the writer reconstructs from other sources. Both these parts of the monograph show learning, critical acumen, and good judgment, and the author's method of attacking the question is sound.

Similarly, John Garrett Winter's treatment of the Myth of Hercules at Rome (pp. 171-274) resolves itself into two main parts—a preliminary study of the modern literature dealing with the Hercules story, and an attempt to resolve the myth into its elements and to determine the earliest form which it took at Rome. The writer concludes that "Hercules was not a home-spun Italic deity", that the Cacus element was not a part of the original story, that the Greek Herakles myth and

worship were introduced into Rome from both southern Italy and Etruria, and that the tithe was probably of Phoenician origin.

Roman Law Studies in Livy (pp. 275-354), by Alvin E. Evans, furnishes an interesting body of material, which to be complete must be supplemented from other sources, and so far as the questions are concerned with which it deals constitutes a useful contribution to our knowledge. We could have wished, however, that in addition to the points for discussion mentioned on page 325, and later, the author's plan had included a consideration of the development of tribunician jurisdiction, the responsibility to the popular assembly of different classes of magistrates for their political action, and certain other related matters. The last paper by Laura Bayne Woodruff on Reminiscences of Ennius in Silius Italicus (pp. 355-424) falls outside the field of this journal.

FRANK FROST ABBOTT.

The Monuments of Christian Rome from Constantine to the Renaissance. By ARTHUR L. FROTHINGHAM, Ph.D., Professor of Archaeology and Ancient History at Princeton University. [Handbooks of Archaeology and Antiquities.] (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Pp. vii, 412.)

IN this work the author does not exceed the limits expressed by the title. He has not attempted to write a history of Christian art in Rome, but has confined himself to an account of the monuments of architecture, painting, and sculpture between the era of the persecutions and the Renaissance. The subject is dealt with in two sections. In the first there is a chronological account of the principal monuments and in the second these are systematically classified as Basilicas, Campanili, Cloisters, Civil Architecture, Military Architecture, Sculpture and Painting. The work is not at all technical and makes no elaborate pretense at describing details of style or construction. Though he frequently touches on the subject, the summary character of the historical survey may be the author's excuse for not having discussed expressly the origins of Christian art. This is all the more to be regretted because the various influences which were at work within Christianity itself, and which were being gradually moulded to its new concept of life and society, would seem to form the necessary background for a detailed exposition of any phase of art, which the author himself considers to have been "as integral a part of civilization as politics, religion, sociology or literature". Some of the historical statements, closely interwoven with the central theme, may be open to serious exception. Thus (p. 38) the author says: "The origin of monasticism was due to the bitterness of the delusion of the really religious, who saw that, since fashion and authority had stamped Christianity with their approval, the Church as a unit had become infected with most of the soft vices of paganism." Such an assertion is hardly in keeping with the facts in the history of